

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Spring Fever

By Walter E. Myer

THESE spring days are days of beauty. Throughout most of the land the cherry blossoms, the dogwood, the redbud, the tulips add dashes of color to the soft shades of green which nature spreads everywhere before us. But the spring days are less stimulating than they are beautiful. This is the time when we let down a bit. We are approaching the season when "spring fever" becomes epidemic. We miss the bracing tonic supplied by the winter days. We relax in the warm and perfume-laden air and tend to forget the duties to which we have been so attentive.

Spring fever is not a new ailment. It was felt long ago in the times of our grandfathers. The spring lassitude was looked upon then as a physical malady, and drastic measures were taken to cope with it. Everyone was supposed to take medicine in the spring, for the blood had to be purified. And the taking of medicine in those days was no light matter, for the physicians and the pharmacists had not invented pleasing or inoffensive pellets. As spring came on, everyone had to take large doses of rhubarb and molasses and sulphur to clear up the blood and give tone to the body.

We know now that spring fever is a product of social as well as physical conditions. The indisposition to work in the spring comes partly from the fact that there is so much else that one would rather do. The outdoors is calling. The baseball season is coming on, and all sorts of games beckon to us, to the young and old. It may be marbles for the little tots, and golf or motoring for the graybeards, but the bright, warm outdoors calls to all.



Walter E. Myer

These days of letting down, however, may have their uses, especially for those who are possessed of physical energy and power of will. If one is looking for a chance to spring into leadership, here

may be his opportunity.

When a number of runners enter a race a few may forge ahead in the early stages but may lack the spirit, power or determination to maintain their speed. A runner with superior strength and fortitude pushes into the lead and a final spurt carries him to victory. The same thing happens in the race for leadership in all lines of work. Too many people weaken at the finish.

Especially in the school there is a tendency to slip. Those who follow the line of least resistance will lie down on the job. Most people will let up perceptibly this month. Most students in the classes will fall down a little. The one who is morally and physically able to go on when the going is hard will stick closely to his tasks during these weeks. He will insist upon a high grade of achievement. He will prove that he can overcome obstacles, and the obstacles will prove to be stepping-stones toward a position of distinction and reward.



LABOR strongly opposes legislation about to be passed by Congress that would restrict the power of unions

Fate of Closed Shop?

Congress Is About to Answer This Question—One that Has Been Hotly Debated in American Politics for Many Years

SHOULD the "closed shop" be permitted in American industry? That question, long a source of bitter dispute, is now in the forefront of public attention because Congress is about to pass a new law dealing with the issue.

Briefly stated, the closed shop is a business or industrial enterprise which will employ only union members. It is closed to all workers except those who belong to a labor organization.

A slightly different arrangement is the "union shop." It is a concern that will employ non-union members only on condition that they will join a union within a short time after they go to work.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill which completely outlaws the closed shop. Furthermore, this measure would not allow a business firm or factory to become a union shop unless the majority of workers involved voted in favor of it, and unless the employer in each case approved.

The Senate, as we go to press, appears likely to pass a bill which also bans the closed shop. This measure, however, would not permit employers, as the House bill would, to veto the union-shop plan. If the majority of workers in a business or industrial concern favored such a plan, they could have it.

If the Senate measure is passed, and it may already have been by

now, a conference committee of House and Senate members will attempt to iron out the differences in the two bills. Whatever is done about the union shop, it is almost certain the closed shop will be outlawed.

In actual fact, however, there is not a great deal of difference between the closed and union shops. In establishments where either of these plans is adopted, all the workers must already belong to a union or become members within a short time.

If, therefore, the Senate bill becomes law, it will not change the present situation very much. The majority of workers in most plants that now have a closed shop will vote in favor of a union shop. Consequently, the unions will remain in a strong position.

On the other hand, if the House bill becomes law, the situation will be very different. It will then be impossible for workers to have a closed shop, and they won't be able to have a union shop unless their employers approve.

Some employers, it is true, are in favor of closed or union shops. They say that when both union and non-union men are employed in the same establishment, there is a great deal of friction and that this interferes with efficiency in the plant. They think it is better to prevent such friction by employing only union members.

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Australia Plans Factory Growth

Continent in the South Pacific Wants Larger Population And More Industry

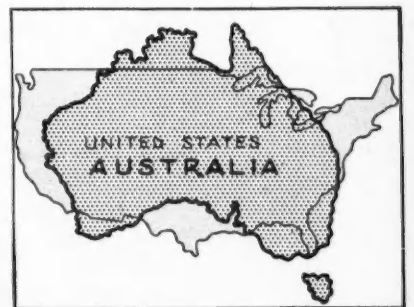
THE Australian government is embarking on an unusual venture—the "adoption" of foreign children. A commission is to visit countries of Europe which have been devastated by war. Homeless boys and girls between the ages of six and fourteen will be selected and taken to Australia. The plan is to bring in 17,000 children a year for three years.

This is a big undertaking. During each of the three years 34 shiploads of children, about 500 to a ship, will be transported to their new home. It is estimated that 23 doctors, 124 nurses, 11 dentists and 431 escorts will be needed to care for the children on each voyage.

When the boys and girls reach Australia they will be housed in cottages built by the government. They will be given medical care and good schooling. They will have vocational training, and those who show special abilities will be sent to college. When they are grown jobs will be found for them and they will take part in the industrial development of "the land of opportunity."

The bringing in of children is but part of Australia's immigration policy. Officials of that country hope to induce thousands of men and women from the United States, the British Isles and the continent of Europe to settle in the continent of the South Pacific.

Australia is a sparsely peopled region. It is almost as large as continental United States, but the population is about 7 million—less than that of New York City.



AUSTRALIA is almost as large as the United States

Most of the people live in a strip of territory along the southeastern and eastern seaboard. In this section a number of large cities are located. Two of them, Sydney and Melbourne, have populations of more than a million. Nearly half of all Australians live in the cities. A number live in small towns, but nearly half of them are farmers or cattle and sheep raisers.

The cultivated area of Australia is about equal to the total area of In-

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Australia

(Concluded from page 1)

diana. Most of the farms are in the eastern part of the country. They are in the coastal region or near to it. Behind the farming country is a grassy region where the large cattle and sheep ranges are located. In addition to the farming and grazing lands in eastern Australia, this section also has some mountains which rise to about the elevation of those in New England. A large part of the interior of Australia is desert land.

The acreage devoted to crops in that country may be increased to a certain extent by irrigation, but the water for this purpose must be found chiefly in artesian wells, since there are few rivers in Australia. Most of the land can never be used for agricultural purposes.

Hence there are definite limits to population growth. Estimates concerning the number of people that the country can support vary greatly, but it seems certain that population might be increased to at least 20 million, which is nearly three times the present figure.

There are two reasons why the Australians are interested in population growth. One is military. It is generally felt that greater numbers are needed in order to protect the land from invaders. In 1941 and 1942, Australia escaped Japanese invasion by a very narrow margin. During the years to come attacks may be made from other quarters.

Worried About Asia

Australians are mindful of the fact that their country is within easy flying distance of a billion Asiatics. No one knows what aggressive movements may come within the next generation or two from China, India, or Indonesia. While Australia can never have a population equal to that of the Asiatic peoples, there is a general conviction that the country would be safer if the population could soon be doubled or tripled.

Another motive behind the desire for population increase is the hope of the Australians that they may develop manufacturing industries and build a more prosperous nation. To do this will require larger numbers of workers.

Australia is well equipped in resources for the development of manufacturing. There is a plentiful supply of iron and, in quality, the ore is equal to any in the world. Copper, zinc, and lead, which are so important in electrical developments, are found in abundance. There are considerable quantities of the atomic materials—thorium and uranium. Oil is lacking and must be imported, but there are large supplies of coal.

Thus far manufacturing has not been carried on very extensively. Chief dependence has been placed upon agricultural products, which are sold abroad and exchanged for manufactured goods. Australia is the world's leading supplier of wool and that product is the leading export. Most of it, in the past, has gone to the British Isles. There are also large exports of wheat, flour, beef and butter. In exchange for these products, the Australians import oil, electrical goods, machinery, tools, and other manufactured products.

During recent years there has been a fairly rapid development of manu-



SYDNEY is Australia's largest city

facturing. The number of industrial workers increased 75 per cent from 1936 to 1946. Lately, American and British investors have become interested in Australia, and many companies from these nations are building factories in that country.

Ford and General Motors have established plants for the construction of automobiles, and the International Harvester Company has an Australian plant which is turning out tractors and other implements. There is a sharp and increasing demand for skilled Australian workers to participate in the industrial developments.

Australia, though independent, is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The King of England is represented in the government by a Governor General, but he has no real authority. Actual power is in the hands of a parliament which consists of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Early in its history, Australia was not a single country. Each of the provinces was independent of the

other, but now the nation is organized in a federal system like ours. The senators, 36 in number, represent the provinces. Each province has the same number of senators.

The House of Representatives, like our own, is based upon population. The provinces do not have equal representation in this body, which consists of 75 members.

As in England, there is a cabinet. The members of the cabinet, headed by a prime minister, hold office only so long as they have the approval of the majority of parliament.

An interesting feature of the government is the compulsory voting plan. Every citizen over 21 years of age is obliged, by law, to vote, and if anyone fails to do so, he is subject to a fine of approximately 10 dollars.

The seat of government is in a small section not included in any of the provinces. This so-called "federal territory" is similar to our own District of Columbia. It was set aside as the capital in 1908. At that time the district was unsettled. Architects

and town planners throughout the world were asked to submit plans for the capital city.

The contest was won by a Chicago architect. His plan was approved and since then the work of capital building has been in progress. In 1927 the parliament moved to this new city of Canberra, though the parliament building at that time was not yet completed. The town now has a population of but 13,000.

Canberra is 200 miles from the great city of Sydney, and is 75 miles from the coast. Efforts are being made to develop a beautiful capital city. Over 8,000,000 trees have been planted. In the background of the city are the Australian Alps.

At present the Labor Party is in a majority in Parliament. This party favors government ownership of some, but not most, of the industries. It is carrying on an extensive public housing program. The government has plans for the construction of swimming pools, libraries, and other recreational facilities in the rural areas. Australia has an advanced system of social security, with sickness and unemployment benefits, and old-age pensions.

Provisions For Arbitration

There is a law requiring that disputes between workers and employers must be settled by arbitration. National boards fix wages for the various industries. Wages in general are not so high as in the United States, but neither is the cost of living. Standards of living in Australia are very high. Most of the people live securely and comfortably.

Ninety-seven per cent of all the people of Australia are either native-born or of English descent. Since their backgrounds are similar, they approach their problems with much the same outlook.

All political parties in Australia are united in supporting a consistent foreign policy. The Australians understand very well that if wars of aggression continue, they will be in extreme danger. The people realize that Great Britain will probably be unable to protect them in the future. They may have the support of the United States in future crises, as they had it during the recent war. They think, however, that their best chance of security is to be found in a strong United Nations which will be able to put down aggression wherever and whenever it occurs.

Hence Australia stands strongly for a system of world security. It was an ardent supporter of the League of Nations and is today using all its influence to uphold and strengthen the United Nations.

Total Eclipse

Less than a month from now, on May 20, the moon will pass between the earth and the sun and there will be a total eclipse of the sun.

Thirteen scientists from the United States are now in Brazil making preparations for the event. The expedition, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, has journeyed to Brazil because the eclipse will not be visible in the United States.

Pictures will be made of the event on both color and black and white film. Broadcasters will describe the eclipse on the radio. Television pictures will also be made.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

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BRaille ALPHABET. Braille consists of dots raised above the surface of the page. A blind person reads by feeling the dots with his fingers. Writing in Braille is a slow job, but a new typewriter that will shorten the time is soon to be on the market.

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"General Chang Chun, Premier of China's First Coalition Government," New York Herald-Tribune.

General Chang Chun, the new Premier of China, is a colorful figure. He speaks fairly good English, likes to tell American jokes, wears Occidental clothes frequently, and is fond of American ice cream. He has never been in the United States, but his son is a graduate of Cornell University and his daughter is a resident of Washington, D. C., where her husband is stationed with a Chinese government mission.

The General is one of the few men in the Nationalist government who have the respect of the Communist forces of China. He became a friend of Chiang Kai-shek when both were class-



GENERAL CHANG CHUN, new premier of China

mates at the Japanese military academy in Tokyo many years ago.

Chang Chun has held various high posts under the Chiang government. He was War Minister, Foreign Minister, and lately he has been Governor of Szechwan. He was a member of General Marshall's Committee which brought about the short-lived truce with the Communists and Nationalists in China last year.

"News at Their Finger Tips," Saturday Evening Post.

Few Americans know that one of the most unusual newspapers in the world goes to press every week in Boston. This is the *Weekly News*—the only Braille newspaper printed in the Western Hemisphere.

The *News* is published by Francis Ierardi, blind social worker in Boston, and is sent free to 3,800 subscribers. It is supported by gifts from well-wishers. Thirty persons, fourteen of them sightless, work for the paper.

Mr. Ierardi is editor and business

manager during his free time. His wife selects newspaper and magazine articles each week and reads the clippings to her husband. He condenses them on his Braille typewriter. Type is set with six dots on six keys of a machine. Combining the dots makes it possible to write.

Aside from guiding his newspaper, Mr. Ierardi is senior social worker with the Division of the Blind of the Massachusetts Department of Education. He has organized several associations for the blind.

"The Strange Case of Henry Wallace," by Ernest K. Lindley, Newsweek.

The feeling that it is a "shocking thing" for an American citizen to go abroad to denounce his own government is easily shared. However, this feeling is illogical. Henry Wallace has said and written at home what he has said abroad.

What Mr. Wallace has said in this country has already been widely published abroad. Then, too, we have for many years received and heard many Britishers and Continental Europeans who came to this country to tell us how they disagreed openly with the policies of their governments.

The fact is, however, that Mr. Wallace is really hurting his own position at home. He has already sacrificed much of his liberal support by taking a line on foreign policy very close at many points to that of the Communists and fellow-travelers. The acclaim of Communists and anti-American socialists in Britain and on the Continent will do him no good at home.

Because the feeling does exist that an American citizen, especially one who has held high public office, should not go abroad and violently attack his government in public, Mr. Wallace will return to find himself with still fewer friends and admirers than he had when he left. His worst enemies could not have done him more injury.

"Portents of Change and Hope in India," by Jane Krieger, New York Times Magazine.

The American visitor to India receives his first surprise when he discovers that the country actually resembles the version he has seen in Hollywood movies. There are the veiled women in long clinging saris, the wretched beggars, the perspiring sahibs in sun helmets, the weird Oriental music, the monsoon. But if the visitor sees enough of India, he is likely to emerge with hope—the feeling that in spite of the immense problems, a new modern India is emerging.

The old India is one which presents startling contrasts to the Western world. Peasants live in terrible poverty in the country's 700,000 villages,

while native princes squander wealth in the maintenance of splendid palaces. The cities are jammed with India's industrial workers who earn—in the most modern and efficient plants—a total of \$10 a month. The strife between Moslem and Hindu is becoming more frequent as the days of British rule draw to a close.

Hope is seen, nevertheless. Industrialists are beginning to realize that hungry, sick men and women cannot produce efficiently. Indian university students have plans for revitalizing the farms of their country so that better crops may be raised. "We'll build dams, bridges, factories, new industries," they say. "And in the process we can help stamp out the social customs that are holding India back."

"Peace Requires Action," by Warren Austin, U. S. Representative to the United Nations, Rotarian.

Mankind, through the United Nations, is trying to do what has never been done before: establish and keep a peaceful world order from which war is outlawed. No individual can escape a share of the responsibility. We can succeed. Never before have so many people stopped thinking of war as a

necessary evil and begun to think of war as something that must be stopped.

Here is one example of what the United Nations is doing to prevent war. At last winter's session of the General Assembly, steps were taken toward drawing up an International Criminal Code. It includes the principles used at the Nuremberg trials, that individual officials can be punished for leading their countries into aggressive war.

Thus one function of the United Nations is to establish a code of international law. Another is to develop methods of enforcing that law. The chief enforcement agency is the Security Council. It, though, does not have all the responsibility for preserving peace. The UN Charter recognizes the duty of individual member nations to take action against aggressors in case the Council is not able to act.

Eventually, the power of the United Nations must be increased. Countries of the world must give it control over atomic energy and other weapons of mass destruction. Doing this may take a long time. Meanwhile, we must have both patience and determination. We cannot afford to speculate on the chances of success. We must succeed.

S M I L E S

Employee: "I have been here for 10 years doing three men's work for one man's pay. Now I want a raise."

Employer: "I can't give you a raise, but if you'll tell me who the other men are, I'll discharge them."

★ ★ ★

Medical Professor: "What would you do in the case of a person eating poisoned mushrooms?"

Student: "Recommend a change of diet."

★ ★ ★

Housewife: "I see a spider web in the corner, Ethel. To what do you attribute that?"

Maid: "To a spider, ma'am."

★ ★ ★

A minor-league club sold a prize baseball rookie to a major-league team for a fancy price, and the player moved his small family to the big city. The first day in town, his wife and little girl went out window shopping, and the little girl spied an expensive doll.

"Oh, mother," she cried, "I wish I could have that!"

"But, dear, it costs too much—we can't afford it."

"Why not?" she asked. "Couldn't we sell daddy again?"

★ ★ ★

An aggressive red-headed boy landed a job as messenger, and was promptly sent on an errand. A little later his boss's telephone rang.

"This is the janitor of the Westwood Apartments. Your boy was here and insisted on coming in the front way. He was so persistent I had to draw a gun."

"Good heavens!" the boss exclaimed, "You didn't shoot him, did you?"

"No," said the janitor, "but I want my gun back."

Sunday School Teacher: "And when it rained the 40 days and 40 nights, what happened then?"

Little Boy: "The natives said it was very unusual."

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Neighbor: "I understand your husband can't meet his creditors."

Wife: "I didn't know he wanted to."

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The charge of assault recently made against Frank Sinatra seems to have been based on the old saying: "You could knock me down with a feather."

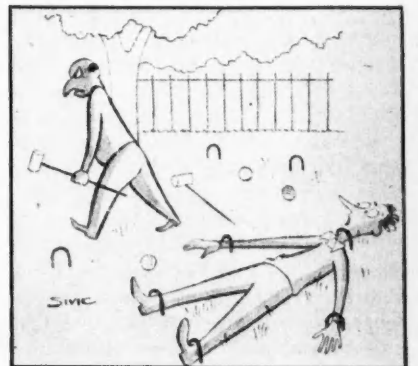
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Teacher: "Which is farther away, England or the moon?"

Johnny: "England."

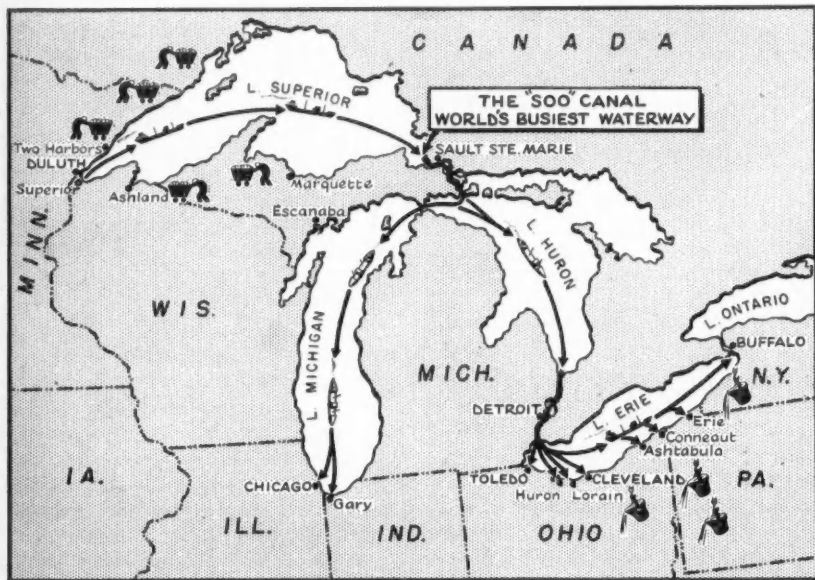
Teacher: "What makes you think that?"

Johnny: "Well, we can see the moon but we can't see England."



SIVIC IN SATURDAY EVENING POST
"You certainly aren't taking defeat gracefully!"

The Story of the Week



SHIPPING through the "Soo" Canal is greater than the combined annual tonnage shipped through the Panama and Suez Canals

Great Lakes Shipping

The shipping season on the Great Lakes usually begins about the first of April. It got off to a slightly later start this year because a heavy freeze late in March made it impossible for ships to move safely. But in spite of the delay until mid-April, old-timers on the Lakes predict that this season will be busier than last.

Because of the shortage of railroad freight cars, they say, more farmers will depend on Great Lakes ships to move their crops from the Middle West to large eastern cities. In addition, the strikes which closed down the steel and auto industries last year have not been repeated so far in 1947, so there should be more steel and cars to be moved on Great Lakes vessels.

Throughout the season, there will be heavy cargoes of iron ore from the mines near the upper lakes bound for the factories on the shores of the lower and eastern lakes.

Lend-Lease Dispute

A law passed by Congress last summer prohibited the shipment of lend-lease goods out of the United States after the end of 1946. A number of countries, including Russia, had contracted earlier to obtain some American goods under lend-lease regulations, but had not yet taken the material by the end of last year.

Now Congress has been asked to permit our State Department to let that material be shipped. Some members of Congress feel that it would be foolish, though, for our country to send Russia valuable equipment under lend-lease while at the same time spending hundreds of millions of dollars to check Soviet expansion in Greece and Turkey. The State Department answers that the lend-lease items were promised to Russia and other nations long ago, and that if we do not deliver them we can be accused of failing to keep our promises.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan has said that we should not send the goods to Russia until she arranges a settlement of her wartime lend-lease account with us. Since the Soviet government has agreed to discuss the account, Vandenberg's suggestion may lead to a compromise.

In settling the wartime lend-lease account, Russia, like other nations, will not be expected to pay for materials that were actually used up in fighting the enemy. Our government does expect some payment, however, for items which were left over and used by these nations for peacetime purposes.

New Meeting on Korea

A Joint Soviet-American Commission, which a year ago gave up its attempts to establish a single government for Korea, will go back to work this month. At present, Korea is divided, with its northern part under Russian control and its southern part occupied by American forces. The northern zone, an industrial region, and the southern zone, which produces food, are not allowed to trade with each other. This situation causes great hardship for the Korean people in both areas.

American authorities have blamed Russia for the country's plight. They say that the terms under which the Russians have wanted to let all parts of Korea work together would give Communists full control. Soviet officials, on the other hand, contend that we are supporting Korean leaders who

worked with Japan during the war and who hate Russia.

At the Moscow conference of foreign ministers, Secretary of State Marshall suggested that Russia and the United States should try again to unite Korea. The Soviet Union has accepted his suggestion, and the Joint Commission, composed of Russian and American officials, will soon meet for that purpose. Whether the group will be any more successful this time than before is the big question.

Thirteen States Act

As we go to press, 13 state legislatures have approved the proposed U. S. Constitutional Amendment that would limit the length of time a President can hold office. If approved by 23 more states within the next seven years, the measure will become effective, although it cannot apply to President Truman.

It would prevent any person from being elected to the Presidency more than twice. A person elected Vice President, and later serving more than two years of a deceased President's term, could be re-elected to the White House only once.

The states which have given their approval are California, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The majority of these are normally Republican, and it is generally agreed that the proposal was inspired by the four election victories of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Whether or not enough states which are ordinarily Democratic will vote for the plan remains to be seen. It will be defeated if more than 12 states reject it.

Airways in Germany

Under present regulations, people of Germany are not permitted to own or fly airplanes. Therefore any air service they have must be furnished by planes of other countries. Airplanes of about 10 nations are now operating in the British and American occupation zones. Russians, on the other hand, have severely limited the flying of other countries' planes across their zone.

In Berlin, representatives of Britain, France, Russia, and the United States have discussed plans for a Germany-wide airway system, operated by the Big Four and some other members of the United Nations.

Will Canada Join?

Canada, largest nation in area and fifth in population in the Western Hemisphere, is not a member of the Pan American Union. That is because she was a British possession when the Union was organized in 1890.

Since 1931, Canada has been an independent dominion. It has long been felt that she should be invited to become the twenty-second member of the Pan American Union. One of the most recent suggestions to that effect came from United States Senator Arthur Vandenberg. The chances are good that the International Conference of American States, when it meets at Bogota, Colombia, next December, will invite Canada to join the Union.

Canada would add strength to that organization, the purpose of which is to promote trade, understanding, and cooperation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Aftermath of Moscow

In the days since the Moscow conference of foreign ministers came to an end, there has been widespread discussion of what it did and did not accomplish. All will agree that it failed to settle a single big problem involving Germany, but Secretary of State Marshall and other U. S. officials are not entirely discouraged. Secretary Marshall regards the conference as but the "first round."

While no major problems were actually solved, it may be possible to settle them later this year as a result of the work which was done on them at Moscow. Furthermore, Britain, France, and the United States are expected to bring their German zones into closer cooperation during the coming months. If Russia sees that they are going ahead without her, she may decide to fall into line.

At any rate, the foreign ministers



FIVE MILES A MINUTE is the cruising speed of the new Douglas DC-6 used by United Air Lines on some of its regular passenger routes. The plane crossed the continent in less than seven hours recently. But comfort is not sacrificed for speed—the DC-6 is air-conditioned, its cabin pressure adjusts automatically, and there are telephone connections aboard for last-minute calls to home or office.

will probably meet again next fall in a renewed effort to work out a German treaty. Since most of the problems connected with Austria were solved at Moscow, a treaty for that country may well be agreed upon at the next meeting.

Distinguished Visitor

President Miguel Aleman of Mexico has been in this country for several days on a visit of state. This trip and President Truman's recent visit to Mexico are taken as evidence of the friendly relations between the two Western Hemisphere countries.

Like many of his countrymen, President Aleman is of Spanish and Indian stock. He was born about 45 years ago on the east coast of Mexico. His father, a storekeeper, left home to fight against the dictator who was ruling the country. As a result the father was outlawed, and Miguel was not



PRESS ASSOCIATION

MIGUEL ALEMAN, President of Mexico, has been in the United States on an official visit. This trip and President Truman's recent visit to Mexico are evidence of friendly relations between the two countries.

allowed to go to school. When he was eight years old he sold milk and papers to earn money. Shortly thereafter a real civil war broke out, and Miguel's father became a general. His family went with him wherever the general had to go to fight.

When at last the dictator was beaten General Aleman and his family moved to Mexico City. Miguel began to study, but this was interrupted again when the father died. Miguel had to go to work again to earn a living for himself, his mother, and his younger brother. He was able, however, to find parttime jobs that gave him a chance to keep up with his law studies.

When he opened his office as a lawyer, the first people who came to him were miners who claimed that the mine owners owed them money. The future President won so many cases that he soon had all the business he could handle. He then began to buy and sell land, and in a few years he was rich. Then he turned to politics and he was again successful. Last July he was elected President.

Newburyport Leads Way

An experiment which may have far-reaching consequences was launched late last month by Newburyport, Massachusetts, a city of 15,000. All the merchants of the town agreed to cut prices 10 per cent, and to hold them at that figure for 10 days. If the plan worked, that is, if the people bought more goods as a result of

the lower prices, the reductions were to continue.

The immediate effects were very encouraging. Many stores saw their business doubled and tripled. It seems probable, as we go to press, that the experiment will be continued.

Certain cities and towns in other sections of the country hastened to follow the example of Newburyport. There are indications that the voluntary price reduction movement may become nation-wide.

Oftentimes the people of a nation find themselves drifting into a critical situation and yet can't agree what to do about it. All informed Americans realize that if prices are not lowered, more and more people are going to have to cut down on their purchases, causing factories to reduce their output and to throw workers out of their jobs.

While there is agreement on this point, the people and leaders of this country have not been able to get together on a program to bring prices down. The Newburyport plan appears to be the most practical and hopeful plan yet put forth.

French Empire in Revolt

France, whose world empire includes about one-tenth of the earth's land surface, is faced with serious revolts in her colonies. Syria and Lebanon, held by France as mandates and therefore not strictly to be classed as colonies, have broken away from France entirely. The most important part of French Indo-China is trying to establish an independent country, known as Viet Nam. Uprisings in Madagascar were recently put down, but all these developments indicate the growing restlessness among the French colonial people.

France has derived both wealth and prestige from her colonies. For this reason she is trying to find a way to give these regions the freedom they demand while keeping them associated with the homeland. France's major colonies are as follows:

French Indo-China is located in the southeastern corner of Asia. The land is larger than Texas and has a population of 25 million. It is important chiefly for its rice, rubber, and coal.

French colonies cover almost the entire "hump" of northwest Africa, and are divided into three parts—French North Africa, French West Africa, and French Equatorial Africa. Together they cover an area more



BURCK IN CHICAGO TIMES

Cradle snatcher

than a third larger than that of the United States, excluding Alaska.

French North Africa, with a population of 18 million, is important not only for its production of barley, olives, grapes, and wheat, but also for its dominant position along the Mediterranean Sea. West and Equatorial Africa are inhabited by more than 20 million Negroes. Equatorial Africa produces wild rubber, palm oil, and ivory. West Africa exports rice, corn, cotton, coffee, tobacco, and cocoa.

Madagascar, just off the east coast of Africa, is under French control, and is important for its tropical products—coffee, vanilla, and perfume oils.

New Caledonia, just east of Australia, is the most important French possession in the Pacific. It is important as a defense base and for its chrome, nickel, iron, and manganese.

In South America, France owns French Guiana, valuable chiefly for its rich forests.

Martinique and Guadeloupe in the West Indies, and St. Pierre and Miquelon, near Newfoundland, complete the list of French possessions in the Western Hemisphere.

Industrial Scene

Despite the nation-wide telephone strike, the industrial scene has been much more peaceful this spring than many observers anticipated it would be. There was fear that labor-man-

agement disputes in the steel and automobile industries would result in strikes involving hundreds of thousands of workers and crippling the nation's economic machinery.

Instead, industrial and union officials, for the most part, have shown a much greater willingness to compromise and settle their differences than was the case last year. Wage increases of about 15 cents an hour have been given to large numbers of workers in the steel and automobile industries. Similar increases are expected to be granted by numerous other industrial enterprises.

It is widely believed that union officials have adopted a more compromising attitude in the hopes of making less severe an anti-labor law which Congress is about to adopt. The House of Representatives has passed a bill which would drastically curb the power of unions. The Senate favors a more moderate measure, and union officials are hoping, through their actions, to swing public opinion behind the Senate bill.

Employers, too, have a good reason for making every possible effort to settle their labor problems peacefully. They know that large-scale and prolonged strikes would probably lead to depression and seriously hurt their business.

Hence, both employers and union officials are being more reasonable than they were last year.



COLONIES of the French empire are seeking independence

NEW YORK TIMES

Closed Shop

(Concluded from page 1)

The majority of employers, however, are opposed to closed or union shops. If they adopt these plans, it is only because they are induced to do so by pressure of labor organizations.

Since the closed and union shops are similar in character, we shall, in the remainder of this article, discuss them together under the term *closed shop*. We shall first present the arguments of those who favor this plan, and then state the position of its critics. This is what the supporters have to say:

"1. The closed shop denies to no worker the right to a job. It simply lays down conditions under which a person may be employed. There is nothing new or undemocratic or un-American about this. No one ever gets a job without conforming to certain conditions.

"For example, the government compels industrial workers to permit money to be taken out of their wages for Social Security. Employers require that an employee be qualified for his work and that he perform his duties efficiently. The closed shop merely lays down another condition—membership in a union. This requirement violates no essential right of any individual.

"2. The closed shop insures fair treatment to workers, whereas the open shop is unfair and unjust. It is not fair to union men to be obliged to work side by side with non-union workers. The unorganized employees are weak and ineffective in dealing with employers. Throughout our history, nearly all of labor's gains in wages, hours, and working conditions have been won by unions, often at great sacrifice to their members.

Non-members Benefit

"When a union wins improved conditions and standards, the benefits, in an open shop, go also to the non-union workers. They enjoy the higher standards without helping to achieve the gains—without paying dues, or assisting in any other way. This is unfair.

"3. The closed shop is necessary as a protection for the unions against attempts of employers to destroy them. Under the open shop, where both union and non-union workers are employed, employers discriminate in favor of non-union workers and against union employees. They frequently single out the men who are doing particularly good work for the union and dismiss them, refuse them promotions, and in other ways intimidate them. As a result, many workers are afraid to belong to the union or to assume leadership in it.

"Employers are forbidden by law to do these things, but they often find ways to get around the law. If, for example, they wish to punish an employee for union activity they dismiss or demote him and say they are doing it for other reasons.

"4. The closed shop insures to labor a united front in bargaining with employers. It thus strengthens the labor movement and enables labor to improve living standards. In this way it benefits the entire nation.

"Despite the fact that organized labor is stronger than it was a few years ago, it is still weaker than the

employers are. Businessmen have raised prices faster than wages have risen. Consequently the purchasing power of most workers has fallen.

"If this goes on, purchasing power will be so low after a while that people cannot buy all that is being produced. Factories will have to close and there will be depression.

"This can be prevented if organized labor has enough power to force employers to give workers a fair deal. One way to preserve and increase labor's power is to keep the closed shop. The nation will, therefore, be better off if the closed shop is not prohibited."

In the four points which have been outlined, the case for the closed shop has been stated. We turn now to the other side. Here are the arguments

such conditions, the worker could solve his problem by joining a union, but some people do not want to be in unions, and they have a right to stay outside without losing the chance to work.

"2. Under the closed shop, labor unions often adopt monopolistic practices. A union may charge very high initiation fees, so high as to prevent many workers from joining. Sometimes a union will go further than this and refuse to take in new members. It keeps newcomers out of the union so that they can't compete for jobs with the members already in the union. This is a serious matter, for if a man can't have employment unless he is in the union and then can't get into it, he is helpless.



STEEL INGOTS ready for use. The United Steel Workers, a CIO union, recently insisted on a union shop in the U. S. Steel Corporation. The demand was finally dropped, but the union still has an arrangement with the corporation which helps to keep its present membership among the steel workers intact.

which are set forth by those who wish to have the closed shop outlawed:

"1. The closed shop denies to workers an essential right of American citizenship, the right to work. The non-union worker cannot get or hold a job with a company which operates under the closed shop.

"It is true that a person, denied a job with such a company, might find employment with an open shop firm. In order to do this, though, one might be obliged to move to another city and that would be inconvenient and perhaps practically impossible.

"Furthermore a man might be skilled at a kind of work carried on only in a closed shop plant. For example, if a person were skilled in the clothing trades, he could not hope to find work in an open shop, for there are few open shops in that industry. Such a worker would simply be out of luck if he did not belong to a union.

"It might be argued that, under

"3. The closed shop promotes undemocratic practices within unions. Labor officials have too much power over members. They force members to do their bidding, holding over them the threat of expulsion if they oppose the policies of the leaders.

"If a member is expelled from the union in a closed shop he loses his job, for the company cannot keep in its employ anyone not in the union. Therefore, rank-and-file members, fearing the loss of their jobs, fall in line with the policies of the officials, and this gives these officials a power which is practically dictatorial. If closed shops were abolished unions would be more democratic.

"4. Under closed shop conditions, with all workers forced into the union ranks, the labor organizations have become so powerful that they dominate many industries, and they use this power to the detriment of the nation.

"By strike or threat of strike, they have pushed wages so high that

business firms have had to raise prices in order to keep going. If this trend continues, prices will skyrocket and we will have serious inflation, followed by depression.

"The unions, having gained in strength, often use their power irresponsibly. They call strikes in essential industries and paralyze business. They have become a threat to national stability. The nation will be better off if labor's power is curbed, and one way to curb it is to outlaw the closed shop."

Science News

THE usefulness of many northern seaports is impaired by the fact that they are ice-bound during the winter. Russia, with her long Arctic coastline, is particularly handicapped by ice. During her history she has made many efforts to obtain more ports that can be used all year.

A new device which, according to its Swedish inventors, can keep channels in northern harbors free of ice, may eventually help to satisfy the need of Russia and other nations for warm-water ports. It consists of pipes laid at the bottom of each channel. Air is pumped out through holes in the pipes. Rising air bubbles carry to the surface water that is above freezing temperature and keep the surface from freezing.

★ ★ ★

While examining an airplane instrument panel, or the picture of one, have you ever wondered how the pilot can understand such a confusing array of dials? Psychologists wonder too. Some of them say that there would be less danger of fatal mistakes by pilots if instrument panels were easier to read. Therefore they are trying to design instruments which will show information more clearly than do present ones, and to rearrange the positions of these instruments so that the pilot can read them more conveniently.

★ ★ ★

The recent eruption of Hekla, a volcano in Iceland, may influence weather on both sides of the Atlantic. High winds in Iceland's latitude scatter volcanic dust far and wide. For several centuries, men have noticed that volcanic eruptions in Iceland have been followed by long periods of cold weather in surrounding areas. The reason, scientists believe, is that volcanic dust in the atmosphere prevents some sunlight from reaching the surface of the earth.

★ ★ ★

A company known as Holub Industries, Incorporated, is making a flashlight for use in small, hard-to-reach places. The bulb is on the end of a long, flexible tube, which holds any shape into which it is bent.

★ ★ ★

Inventors have built radio broadcasting sets about the size of a person's finger, and receiving sets not much larger. One of the developments that have made such marvels possible is "printed wire." With ink made of some material that can carry electricity, lines are drawn or printed upon a non-conducting surface. These lines act as electric wiring.

By THOMAS K. MEYER

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

THE quality of one's thinking on public questions is determined to a large extent by the amount of information he possesses. An individual may have a good mind, but his judgment concerning the great problems of the day probably will not be worth much unless he reads widely, equips himself with facts, and becomes familiar with differing points of view. How do you stack up in this connection? Here are some questions by which you may test yourself:

1. How much time do you spend each day reading newspapers? Magazines?

2. How many magazines dealing with public problems can you name and describe?

3. Are you acquainted with *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* and do you ever use it at the library?

4. When you read an editorial or article strongly favoring one side of a controversial question, do you make it a habit to find an argument on the other side before arriving at any opinion?

5. If your reading habits continue to be what they are now, will you be a well-informed citizen 10 years hence?

6. If all citizens read just as much as you do and no more, would they be sufficiently informed to decide public questions wisely?

7. Do you spend as much as 10 hours a week reading about public problems and issues in newspapers, magazines, or books? If not, can you say that your time is fully taken up with activities more important than such reading from the standpoint of your becoming a competent and well-informed citizen?

8. If you think that you do not have time to read widely on important public questions, have you ever stopped to inquire whether you will probably have more time in later years, when you will be through school and making a living?

After grading yourself on these questions, it would be profitable for you to keep this test and quiz yourself again in several months. In that way, you can check your progress in citizenship preparation.

YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 3, for the correct answers.

1. A project which ends in a *debacle* (dē-bah'kl): (a) collapses (b) is highly successful (c) is successful but expensive (d) is completed quickly.

2. Those rules *encumber* (ēn-kūm'bur) them. (a) help and guide (b) please (c) overburden and hinder (d) puzzle.

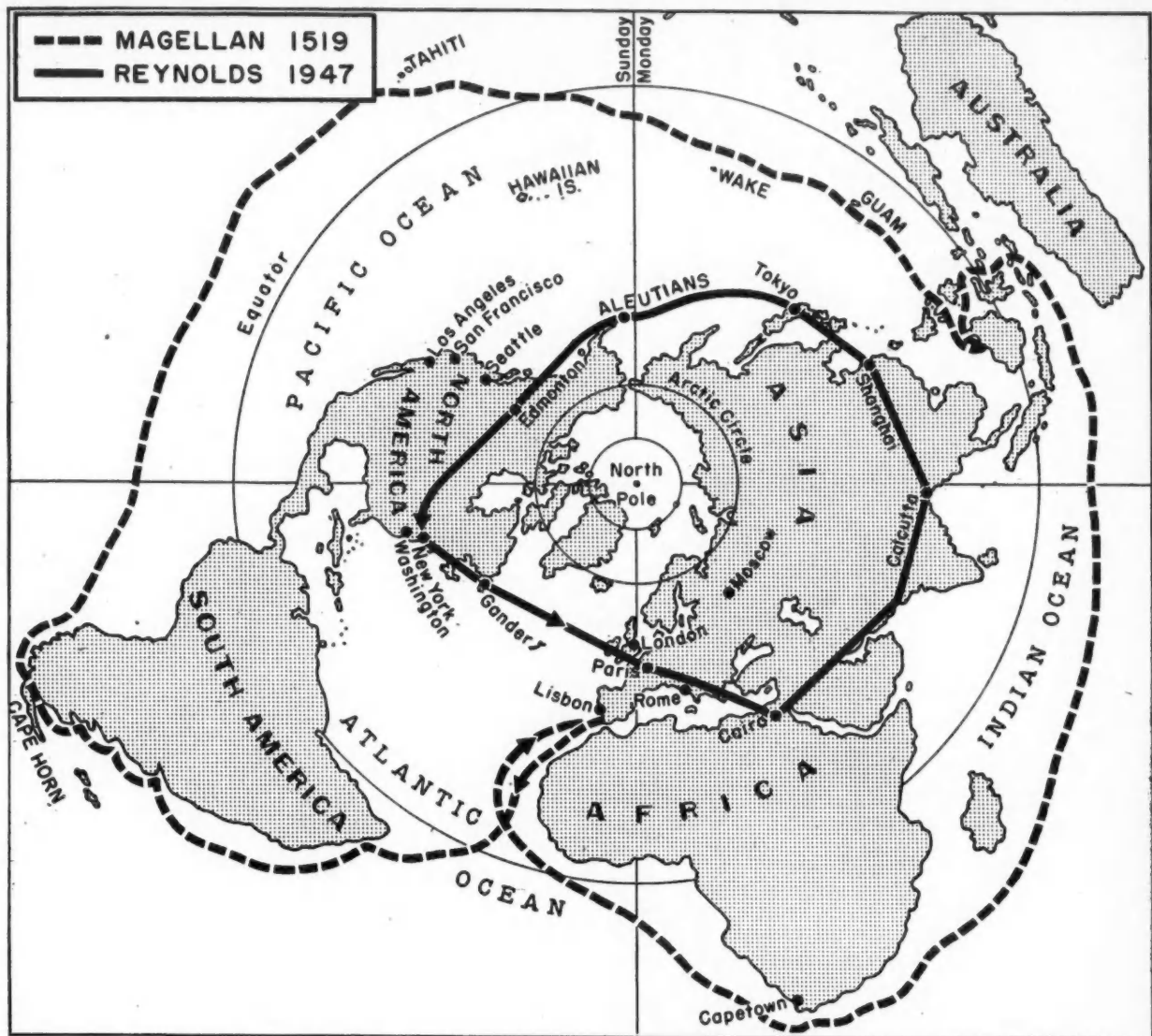
3. We plan to *facilitate* (fuh-sil'i-tāt) their return. (a) prevent (b) explain (c) make easy (d) demand.

4. We cannot *gainsay* (gān'sā') that statement. (a) contradict (b) believe (c) repeat (d) understand.

5. This is not the *habitat* (hāb'i-tāt) of those animals. (a) usual behavior (b) natural location (c) regular food (d) most common color.

6. When a person is *impassive* (im-pās'iv) he: (a) is angry (b) is highly pleased (c) cannot be passed (d) shows no signs of emotion.

7. They *recede* (rē-sēd) from that position. (a) continue to advance (b) move back (c) make observations (d) exert great influence.



TWO EPOCH-MAKING around-the-world trips. Magellan's ship, the *Victoria*, travelled 36,000 miles in 3 years—26,280 hours. Milton Reynolds, in his plane, the *Bombshell*, went 20,000 miles in 79 hours on his recent globe-circling flight.

Historical Backgrounds - - by Harry C. Thomson

THE recent around-the-world airplane flight by Milton Reynolds, Chicago manufacturer, has added a new chapter to the long history of circumnavigating the globe. The 79-hour flight of the *Bombshell* forms a striking contrast to the historic three-year voyage around the world by Magellan's ship, the *Victoria*, four centuries ago.

Hoping to find a short route to the rich Spice Islands, Magellan set sail from Spain in 1519 with five small ships and a crew of about 300 men. After crossing the Atlantic Ocean the little fleet reached the coast of South America and then passed through the "Strait of Magellan" into the

Pacific Ocean (so named by Magellan because it was so peaceful, or "pacific"). One ship had already been wrecked, and at the Strait another deserted and returned to Spain.

Steering westward across the Pacific, Magellan and his crew set out in search of the Spice Islands. The ocean proved to be far wider than they had expected. Food supplies ran out, and the men were reduced to eating sawdust and boiled leather. When they were on the verge of exhaustion they reached the Ladrone Islands off the east coast of Asia where they obtained food and water. Six days later they came to the Philippine Islands (named for King Philip of Spain), and here Magellan was killed in a fight with the natives.

Only one of Magellan's ships, the *Victoria*, with 18 haggard survivors, finally made its way across the Indian Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope, and up the west coast of Africa to Spain.

This first voyage around the world had taken three years to complete. It is now generally regarded as the "greatest feat of navigation of all time." No other voyage in history made as great a contribution to man's knowledge of the world. Here was proof that the earth was a sphere, for the *Victoria* had actually sailed around it!

A half-century later, Spain's supremacy on the seas was challenged by a number of daring English seamen. One of these was Francis Drake who, in his ship, the *Golden Hind*, was the first Englishman to

circumnavigate the globe (1577-80).

Great progress has been made in around-the-world traveling since the days of Drake and Magellan. In 1874, the French author, Jules Verne, wrote an imaginative book entitled *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Because of the wide interest in this book, Nellie Bly, a woman newspaper correspondent, made a trip around the globe by railroad and steamboat in 72 days as an advertising stunt for the *New York World*.

In 1924—four centuries after Magellan's voyage—four U. S. Army planes, setting out from Seattle, made the first aerial flight around the world, traveling 26,000 miles in 175 days. Although these planes did not set a new speed record, they demonstrated the possibilities of world travel by airplane.

Five years later, in September, 1929, the airship *Graf Zeppelin* made a 21,000-mile globe-circling flight from Lakehurst, New Jersey, in 21 days.

In June, 1931, Wiley Post and Harold Gatty, two famous aviators, flew around the world in their plane, the *Winnie Mae*, in the record-breaking time of eight days.

In 1938, Howard Hughes, with four companions, established a new record by flying around the world in 91 hours—less than four days. It was this record which was shattered last month when Reynolds, in his *Bombshell*, took a longer route around the world than Hughes did, and completed the trip in 79 hours.

Careers for Tomorrow - - Service Trades

MANY young men and women find employment as barber or beauty shop operators. Most barbers are men and most beauticians are women, but the two occupations are much alike. Neither offers very large rewards in terms of money, yet the incomes are fair when account is taken of the little training which is required. Furthermore, employment is steadier than in most vocations.

Nature of work. The activities of the barber and beautician are so well known as not to require much discussion. Both must understand the techniques of hair cutting, shampooing, scalp treatments, massaging. Both must be familiar with facial preparations and the care of instruments. The barber must be able to give customers smooth shaves, and beauticians must understand the



The beauty operator's job . . .

rather difficult techniques in permanent waving.

The hours are rather long, and the work, except in the case of manicurists, calls for standing throughout most of the day. There are compensations, however, for the operator comes to know a great many people and if he (or she) is skilled, there is the satisfaction of meeting the exacting needs and requirements of customers.

Income. The barbers and beauticians usually receive a small salary.

The average for barbers throughout the nation is about \$25 a week, and it is less for beauticians. In addition, however, they are given commissions so that their income depends in part on the number of their customers. The commissions of beauticians frequently amount to about half of the money paid in to the shop by their customers. The majority of barbers and beauticians receive weekly earnings, including commissions and tips, ranging from \$35 to \$75 a week.

Incomes are usually higher in the cities where there is more work to do than in towns and villages. Tips add considerably to incomes, especially in city shops.

A barber or beautician, instead of remaining a wage earner, may acquire a shop as owner. As a matter of fact, a large proportion of all the shops in the country are small set-ups, consisting of the owner and one or two assistants.

If a barber or beautician plans to obtain a small shop, he (or she) may do so by investing about \$2,000 in the enterprise. Naturally, the investment in a larger shop would be much greater. In many cases, the shop owner makes little more, perhaps even less, than if he worked for wages. If, though, the owner enjoys good business, he may clear as much as \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year.

Stability. Employment in these occupations is more stable than in most lines of work. During prosperous times one can easily obtain and hold a job. Even in periods of depression employment does not fall off severely. Men must have haircuts, and women will economize in many ways before dispensing with their beauty treatments.

Training. In order to work in a barber or beautician shop, one must have a license from the city or state in which he is to be employed. One who wishes to enter these fields may

obtain information from a barber or beautician concerning the public agency which grants the licenses. From the agency he may learn the nature of the requirements for the trade. For one thing, all prospective barbers and beauticians must attend recognized training schools, usually for a period of six months.

There are schools teaching barbering and beauty work in most of the large cities of the country and in a



. . . and the barber's are similar

good many smaller towns. The tuition for the six-months' course varies from \$100 to \$500, according to the school and the size of the city. A few high schools offer training for beauticians, but in most cases, preparation is made in the specialized trade schools.

Qualifications. Since the income of a barber or beautician depends largely upon the number of his or her customers, and since customers are exacting in their demands, it is important that workers in these fields should be skilled, tactful, and of pleasing personality. The more extensive one's education is, the better, for conversation frequently goes on while work is being done, and the broader one's interests are, the more friends and customers he will have. It is an asset for either barbers or beauticians to know how to speak correctly—to know their grammar well.

Letters From Our Readers

I hope my suggestion will help Peggy Lumpkin of Mattoon, Illinois, who wrote a letter to this paper about youth centers.

In Washington, D. C., several churches and the Y. W. C. A. have started youth clubs that have proved successful. They keep teen-agers from wasting their time, and cultivate a spirit of friendliness in them.

The young people in Mattoon might obtain a backer who has influence to help them get aid from churches and civic organizations. This might not be easy to do, but their cause is a good one and I am sure their efforts would be rewarded.

JEAN MCGIVERN,
Washington, D. C.

* * *

I disagree with Cecil Zornes' statement in this paper that if we let communism get a start here we will lose our independence. The Communists already have a good start, but not because they have freedom of speech. They have forged ahead because of their fiery zeal for the spread of their cause. If those of us who don't believe in communism fight for our ideals with the zeal of the Communists, we can overthrow this threat.

PATRICIA FLOOD,
Silver Spring, Maryland.

* * *

The United States should lend Greece enough money to rebuild her mutilated buildings and to secure enough food for her people. Greece should not be left to be influenced by the Russians. The citi-

zens of Greece in their starving condition might easily fall under the control of the Communists.

MYRA GREY LEE,
Princeton, North Carolina.

* * *

We feel that the United States should stay out of Greece, just as we think that Russia should. If both nations remove themselves from all other countries, and let the countries do as they please, a true form of democracy would result for the entire world.

NANCY WILSON and
BARBARA BONSON,
Balboa, California.

* * *

A universal training law is necessary in these times of uncertainty. This law would provide a large reservoir of trained



men for an emergency. However, I think exemptions should be given young men who want to enter a business or profession which requires a long college course—a course of six to eight years. If the boys who want to take such a course have to go to a training camp for a period of time, their plans will be seriously disrupted. The plan I suggest would help these boys, and assure us that the professions requiring long training—chemistry, law, medicine, and others—would be filled.

HERBERT WEISER,
Covington, Louisiana.

* * *

In the April 14 issue of your paper you speak of the two Canal Zone cities of Colon and Panama City. These are not Canal Zone cities, but are a part of the Republic of Panama. Balboa on the Pacific side and Cristobal on the Atlantic side are the cities of the Canal Zone. My home is in the Canal Zone, though I go to school in Illinois.

CECILIA MILLER,
Centralia, Illinois.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) collapses; 2. (c) overburden and hinder; 3. (c) make easy; 4. (a) contradict; 5. (b) natural location; 6. (d) shows no signs of emotion; 7. (b) move back.

Study Guide

Closed Shop

1. What is the difference between a closed shop and a union shop?
2. True or false: The Senate and House are both fully agreed that these two types of shops must be outlawed.
3. Give some of the main arguments in favor of the closed shop.
4. State the case against it.

Discussion

1. What do you think is the best argument for the closed shop?
2. What do you believe is the strongest point against it?
3. Do you favor or oppose this industrial arrangement? Why?

Australia

1. Why do the Australians want a larger population? What steps are they taking to bring immigrants in?
2. Is manufacturing being encouraged or discouraged in that country? What industrial progress, if any, has recently been made?
3. What are Australia's leading imports and exports?
4. Describe the government of Australia.
5. What is the national capital? Tell something about its history.
6. What role does the government play in the social and economic life of the nation?

Discussion

1. What policies, in your opinion, should Australia adopt in order to provide protection against future foreign aggression?
2. Australia is called "the land of opportunity." To what extent is the term justified?

Miscellaneous

1. What evidence is there that the French colonies are becoming restless and want independence?
2. Why has the United States recently refused to ship Russia the lend-lease goods which she ordered from us some time ago?
3. Why is Canada not a member of the Pan American Union?
4. Briefly describe the background of Miguel Aleman, President of Mexico.
5. What is the Newburyport plan?
6. Are labor-management relations better or worse today than they were a year ago?

Outside Reading

Australia

"Wool in Australia," *Fortune*, January 1947. Facts, figures, and pictures on Australian sheep-raising.

"Australia—Land of Opportunity," by A. Wyn Williams, *Forbes*, April 15, 1947.

Closed Shop

"Closed Shop or Open Shop?—The Two Sides," by William Green and Donald Richberg, *New York Times Magazine*, January 26, 1947.

Congressional Digest, February 1947. Pro-and-con discussion of the closed shop by a number of qualified observers.

Pronunciations

Canberra—kän'bēr-uh
Chang Chun—chahng chōon
Guadeloupe—gwah'duh-lōop'
Guiana—gē-ah-nuh
Miquelon—mik'uh-lōn'
Saint Pierre—sän pyair (y as in yes)
Viet Nam—vē-yet' nahm